

***PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII* - *ABIES GRANDIS* /
HOLODISCUS DISCOLOR /
*POLYSTICHUM MUNITUM***

Douglas-fir - grand fir / oceanspray / sword fern
 Abbreviated Name: PSME-ABGR/HODI/POMU

Sample size = 7 plots

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from San Juan County and a limited area of Clallam County in the vicinity of Sequim. May occur also in northern Island County and in adjacent B.C.

GLOBAL/STATE STATUS: G1?S1. There is only one known relatively good-quality occurrence of this association and several small fragments.

ID TIPS: Grand fir >10% cover or the dominant tree regeneration and little to no western hemlock or western redcedar present. Oceanspray provides >10% cover and either sword fern or common snowberry >5% cover. Swordfern and common snowberry are always present; salal is absent or low in abundance.

ENVIRONMENT: These sites are moderately dry and appear to be relatively nutrient-rich. They are all located in dry climates at low elevations and are most concentrated in areas with the lowest mean annual precipitation in the ecoregion. Usually occurs on plains or short gentle slopes that tend to face toward the north. Parent material is glacial till, glacial outwash, and reworked glacial till and marine sediment. Soil texture is stony loam, loamy sand, or fine sandy loam.

Precipitation: 20-28 inches (mean 22)

Elevation: 30-200 feet

Aspect/slope: W to NE/ 0-22% slope (mean 9)

Slope position: plain, short, mid

Soil series: Roche, Dick, Cassolary

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Vegetation Composition Table (selected species):

Con = constancy, the percent of plots within which each species was found;
 Cov = cover, the mean crown cover of the species in plots where it was found.

Trees	Kartesz 2003 Name	Con	Cov
Douglas-fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii	100	48
grand fir	Abies grandis	100	33
western hemlock	Tsuga heterophylla	29	4
Sitka spruce	Picea sitchensis	14	8
Shrubs, Subshrubs			
oceanspray	Holodiscus discolor	100	23
common snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus	100	14
baldhip rose	Rosa gymnocarpa	100	9
trailing blackberry	Rubus ursinus ssp. macropetalus	86	6
orange honeysuckle	Lonicera ciliosa	71	3
coast black gooseberry	Ribes divaricatum	71	1
tall Oregongrape	Mahonia aquifolium	57	1
spreading snowberry	Symphoricarpos hesperius	43	5
Indian plum	Oemleria cerasiformis	43	3
serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia	43	1
dwarf Oregongrape	Mahonia nervosa	29	22
Graminoids			
Columbia brome	Bromus vulgaris	100	4
Alaska oniongrass	Melica subulata	71	10
western fescue	Festuca occidentalis	71	6
Coast Range fescue	Festuca subuliflora	57	6
Forbs and Ferns			
sword fern	Polystichum munitum	100	9
western starflower	Trientalis borealis ssp. latifolia	86	5
cleavers	Galium aparine	86	4
sweet-scented bedstraw	Galium triflorum	71	3
mountain sweet-cicely	Osmorhiza berteroi	57	1
bracken fern	Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens	43	5
yerba buena	Clinopodium douglasii	43	2
pathfinder	Adenocaulon bicolor	43	2
Siberian springbeauty	Claytonia siberica var. siberica	43	1
American vetch	Vicia americana ssp. americana	43	1
Pacific sanicle	Sanicula crassicaulis var. crassicaulis	43	+
twinflower	Linnaea borealis ssp. longiflora	29	4

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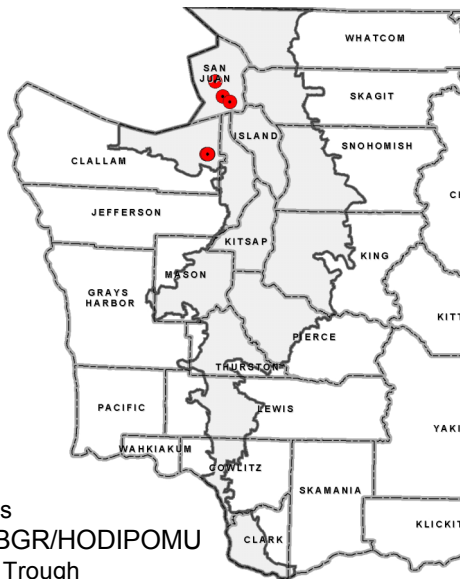
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DISTURBANCE/SUCCESSION: In the pre-Western settlement landscape, a moderate-severity fire regime likely prevailed (variable severity, intermediate frequency), probably resulting in more open stands on average. Some stands may have been savannas in the past maintained by more frequent burning. Disturbance by windstorms tends to be relatively more common in this association than most others, and grand fir tends to increase after wind disturbance. Grand fir usually dominates tree regeneration, but Douglas-fir regeneration also occurs under a variety of conditions. Grand fir will increase in the absence of disturbance.

VEGETATION: Forest typically co-dominated by Douglas-fir and grand fir. Grand fir always at least dominates tree regeneration or is prominent in the canopy. The understory is always dominated or co-dominated by oceanspray, with common snowberry usually co-dominant and always present. Dwarf Oregongrape occasionally co-dominates. Baldhip rose is prominent. Other very frequent woody plants are trailing blackberry, orange honeysuckle, and coast black gooseberry. The herb layer is less developed than the shrub layer. Most prominent in terms of cover are sword fern and Alaska oniongrass. Western fescue, Columbia brome, western starflower, cleavers, sweet-scented bedstraw, and mountain sweet-cicely are usually present.

CLASSIFICATION NOTES: This association has also been considered part of PSME-ABGR/SYAL/MESU (Chappell 1997 & 2001, NatureServe 2004), which also includes what is here called PSME-ABGR/FEOC. The latter has less shrub cover and sword fern, and more grass cover than PSME-ABGR/HODI/POMU.

MANAGEMENT NOTES: Stands that have not been previously harvested or mature and old-growth stands, even if they have been disturbed by thinning, should be considered for conservation status. Sites that have already been harvested may be well suited to uneven-aged management.



Plot locations
of PSME-ABGR/HODIPOMU
in the Puget Trough